

From: [Richard Bergner](#)
Reply To: [Richard Bergner](#)
To: [Rafael Casanova/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Cc: [Stephen Halasz](#); [Gloria-Small Moran/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Phyllis Hoey/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Chuck Talton/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Gary Moore/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Gustavo Chavarria/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [John Hepola/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Subject:
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Rafael:

Thank you for a copy of the EPA's "monthly report" of the EPA's activities concerning community involvement.

After reading the report, it was not clear when the events reported on by the people you interviewed took place and what if anything was done by the TNRCC in those instances when certain of the events were reported to that agency. I would not ordinarily be concerned about these omissions except for the fact your report is, or will become, part of the public record, and in the absence of the following suggested clarifications, the reported incidents can be read as being current in time.

As an example, your interview with Brenda Shedd states that she filed several complaints with the State about Refinery activities, that on one occasion an oily substance spilled into her back yard from a leak at the Refinery and on another occasion she observed Refinery workers pumping liquids that had spilled onto the ground at the Refinery into the wetland area to the northeast of the Site and behind her property. It would benefit the reader if you would supplement that interview by stating when these incidents took place and what if anything was done by the TNRCC investigators who had come to the site. Also, did Ms. Shedd tell you of the magnitude of the oily substance that spilled into her back yard, and if it was cleaned up, and if it was cleaned up, who did it?

Regarding the Carrolls' comments, it would be helpful to know when the Carrolls' water well was tested, and what individual or company performed the test. As an aside, does Mr. Carroll have a copy of the report?

Finally, with respect to the last group interviewed, the report should be supplemented to add when rainwater that spilled from the Refinery and flowed toward their homes and containing an oily sheen took place. Question: did the oily-sheen water just flow towards their home, or did it in fact invade their land? Also, it should show when Mr. McGinnis observed that his water well has (or had?) oil in it. Is that of a recent visitation to the well or was it done some time in the past? Finally, I am wondering if you could expand on when Mr. Ernest Salinas said the air smelled badly when the Refinery was operating and what he contends was the basis for smoke being seen around his home.

I will be happy to discuss these comments with you if you deem it appropriate, but I would like to see some perspective spelled out in these monthly reports, so as to give the reader an understanding of the reported incidents.

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Richard F. Bergner



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